

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 FEA-01 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-05

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01 SAM-01

OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-01 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 /087 W
----- 019127

R 101050Z DEC 74

FM AMCONSUL LAHORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 264

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAHORE 1609

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, EIND, EAGR, ELAB, PK

SUBJECT: WATER AND POWER CRISIS

REF: LAHORE 1604

1. PREDICTED POWER CRISIS BEGAN 48 HOURS EARLY ON DEC 9, WHEN POWER OUTPUT OF GENERATORS AT MANGLA DAM DROPPED BY ABOUT 100 MW AND DAMAGE TO CONTROL PANEL AT GUDDU THERMAL POWER PLANT CUT OFF ALL SUPPLY (ABOUT 60 MW) FROM THAT SOURCE. ALSO ON DEC 9, FOLLOWING PROMULGATION BY PRESIDENT OF ELECTRICITY CONTROL ORDER, WAPDA ISSUED PRESS RELEASE OUTLINING MEASURES IT PLANNED TO IMPLEMENT TO CONSERVE POWER THROUGH END OF MARCH 1975. (WAPDA LIST OF MEASURES WAS AS REPORTED REFTTEL AND PREVIOUS.)

2. WAPDA SPOKESMAN SPECIFIED THAT CUTBACKS IN POWER TO CONSUMERS WOULD BE HEAVIEST IN LAHORE AND SARGODHA
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DIVISIONS, FOLLOWED CLOSELY BY MULTAN DIVISION. CUTBACK

IN PESHAWAR WOULD BE ABOUT HALD THAT IN LAHORE, AND CUT-BACK IN ISLAMABAD WOULD AMOUNT TO ONLY .6 PERCENT BECAUSE OF GENERATION CAPABILITY OF RAWALPINDI ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY.

3. IN CONVERSATION WITH DPO DEC 6, WAPDA MEMBER FOR POWER AFTAB SAEED KHAN DESCRIBED AT LENGTH EFFORTS AUTHORITY WAS MAKING TO EDUCATE PUBLIC AND TO OBTAIN MASS COOPERATION IN MEETING CRISIS. DAILY PRESS, PARTICULARLY GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PAKISTAN TIMES HAS BEGUN SIMILAR PROCESS OF EDUCATION, COUPLED WITH APPEALS FOR COOPERATION. PAPER'S CHIEF REPORTER HAS ASSIGNED SENIOR MEMBER HIS STAFF TO CONCENTRATE SOLELY ON WATER AND POWER CRISIS, AND HE PRODUCED TWO MAJOR ARTICLES ON NOV 25 AND DEC 10, BOTH OF WHICH CONFIRMED IN DETAIL OUR PREVIOUS REPORTING. (COPIES BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT.)

4. HOWEVER, KHAN AGREED THAT APPEALS TO PUBLIC WERE NOT ENOUGH AND ADMITTED THAT TWO OF WAPDA'S MOST CRITICAL PROBLEMS ARE CORRUPTION AND POWER THEFT. HE BELIEVED THAT SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION OF THOSE TWO ILLS WOULD PROVIDE WITH ENOUGH REVENUE AND ELECTRICAL POWER TO OVERCOME POWER CRISIS, BUT SAID THAT NO ONE HAD THE COURAGE TO ATTACK PROBLEMS HEAD ON. PRIMARY REASON WAS THAT DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST INDIVIDUAL WAPDA WORKERS WOULD PROBABLY TRIGGER FULL-SCALE STRIKE AND PUT AGENCY IN EVEN WORSE POSITION TO HANDLE CURRENT PROBLEMS.

5. COMMENT: FROM WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT CONDITION OF MOST WAPDA EQUIPMENT, WE EXPECT OUTAGES MAY BE GREATER THAN ANTICIPATED, AT LEAST BY MR. KHAN.
SPENGLER

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